



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

0000001

July 22, 1998

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SR-6J

Mr. Fred Royal  
Watershed Engineer  
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission  
333-B Peterson Road  
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

**VIA FACSIMILE AND  
REGULAR MAIL**

Dear Mr. Royal:

This letter is in follow-up to our recent conversation regarding the Vulcan Louisville Smelting Company (aka the Vacant Lot) Site (the Site), located in North Chicago, Lake County, Illinois.

As discussed, the Action Memorandum for the Site was signed on May 6, 1998. The cleanup alternative selected for the Site was excavation and disposal of contaminated soils. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is currently working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Omaha District to plan and conduct the removal action at the Site. The U.S. EPA and the USACE anticipate beginning this removal action in August 1998.

Please note, however, that under the selected cleanup alternative, neither the groundwater nor Pettibone Creek sediments will be addressed. With respect to groundwater, further investigation must be conducted on the Fansteel property to investigate the nature and extent of contamination that may be causing the groundwater contamination. With respect to the sediments in Pettibone Creek, the actual volume of hazardous materials in the sediments will be determined by sampling during the cleanup activities. However, upgradient sources need to be identified and addressed first. The Creek sediments would only be addressed if contaminant migration from upstream sources can be identified and eliminated, or information is provided that indicates there are no upstream sources of contamination.

The U.S. EPA needs additional information or studies that would allow for the removal of the contaminated sediments in Pettibone Creek in the future. Since this information may already exist, the U.S. EPA is requesting the assistance of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC), in order to facilitate the removal of the contaminated sediments in Pettibone Creek. Specifically, would the Lake County SMC be able to provide the additional information to the U.S. EPA, that would identify any upstream sources that may be causing contamination of the Pettibone Creek? If there are no identifiable sources of contamination upstream, and the Lake County SMC could verify this to the satisfaction of the U.S. EPA, then removal of the contaminated sediments could probably proceed under this removal action with the USACE.

Please let me know your thoughts on this matter at your earliest convenience.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



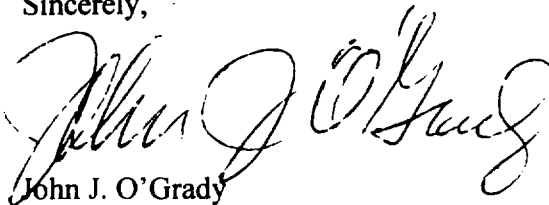
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*July 22, 1998, Letter to Mr. Fred Royal  
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission*

In closing, I do want to emphasize that when the appropriate removal action for the Pettibone Creek sediments is finally evaluated and decided, the U.S. EPA will work with the Lake County SMC and the City of North Chicago to incorporate their studies and design for stormwater management alternatives for the Pettibone Creek Watershed into any removal action. The U.S. EPA would take grading and design into account, including grading the channel to ensure positive drainage.

I look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 886-1477.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. O'Grady", is written over the typed name.

John J. O'Grady  
Remedial Project Manager  
Superfund Division

cc: B. Burris, City Engineer, City of North Chicago  
T. Krueger, U.S. EPA Region 5 Office of Regional Counsel  
S. Sabourin, Director of Community Development and Planning, City of North Chicago  
T. Westenburg, USACE Rapid Response Program